



TRUJILLO
GUTIÉRREZ
QUINTANA

BLUE BEETLE



BATTLE
FOR PALMERA CITY!

13+
TEEN

**SUPERMAN SOARS TO NEW HEIGHTS
IN A BATTLE FOR THE FUTURE OF METROPOLIS!**

**SUPERMAN
SUPERSTARS**

BEGINS HERE.

**TOP CHARACTERS.
TOP CREATORS.
ALL ACTION.**

SUPERMAN

ACTION

COMICS

#1061

© & TM DC.

Written by
Eisner Award winner
JASON AARON



JANUARY

Art by
bestselling artist
JOHN TIMMS



"I WAS ONCE
AN ASPIRING
HERO. AN AMATEUR...

"...AND THEN
I DIED.



BUT
THAT DIDN'T
LAST VERY
LONG, DID
IT?



SO WAIT,
GIMMIX--ARE
YOU LIKE A
ZOMBIE?

PACO, DON'T
BE RIDICULOUS!

SO SHE'S
A GHOST?

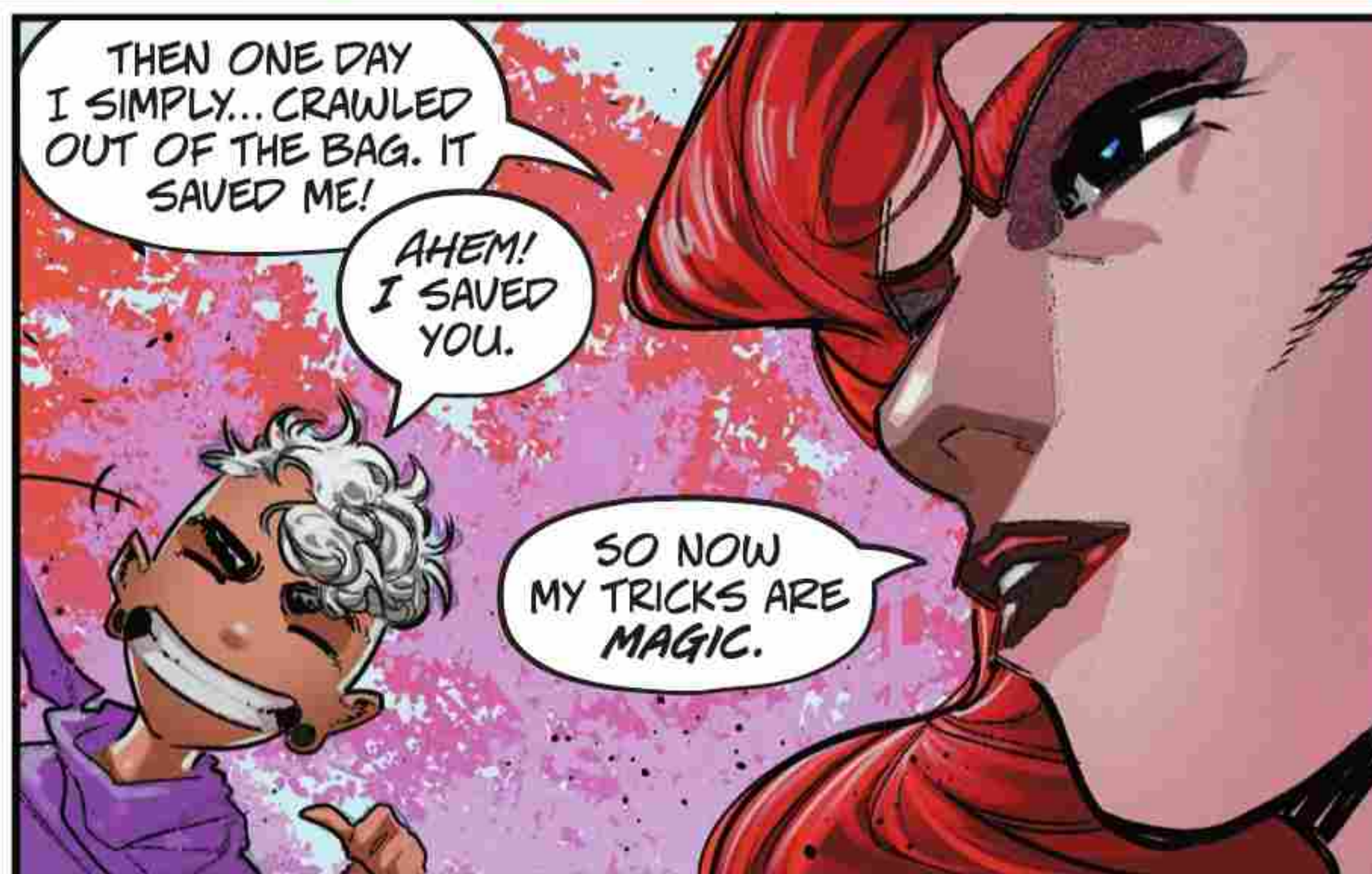


MY BAG OF TRIX IS AN HEIRLOOM
PASSED DOWN FROM MY AUNT, MERRY.
IT WAS OUTFITTED WITH ALL SORTS
OF TECH AND GADGETS. UTILITY-
BELT CRAP.

BUT THE
MONSTERS THAT
KILLED ME WERE
SOMETHING DARK--
SOMETHING
INDESCRIB-
ABLE.

THEIR COSMIC
HORRORS MUST HAVE
SPILLED ONTO THE BAG
AND CHANGED IT!*

*CHECK OUT SEVEN
SOLDIERS OF VICTORY!
--ANDREW



THEN ONE DAY
I SIMPLY... CRAWLED
OUT OF THE BAG. IT
SAVED ME!

AHEM!
I SAVED
YOU.

SO NOW
MY TRICKS ARE
MAGIC.



AND
MAYBE SO
AM I.



HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO TRUST ANYTHING YOU SAY? YOU'RE WORKING WITH THAT THIEF, FADEAWAY!

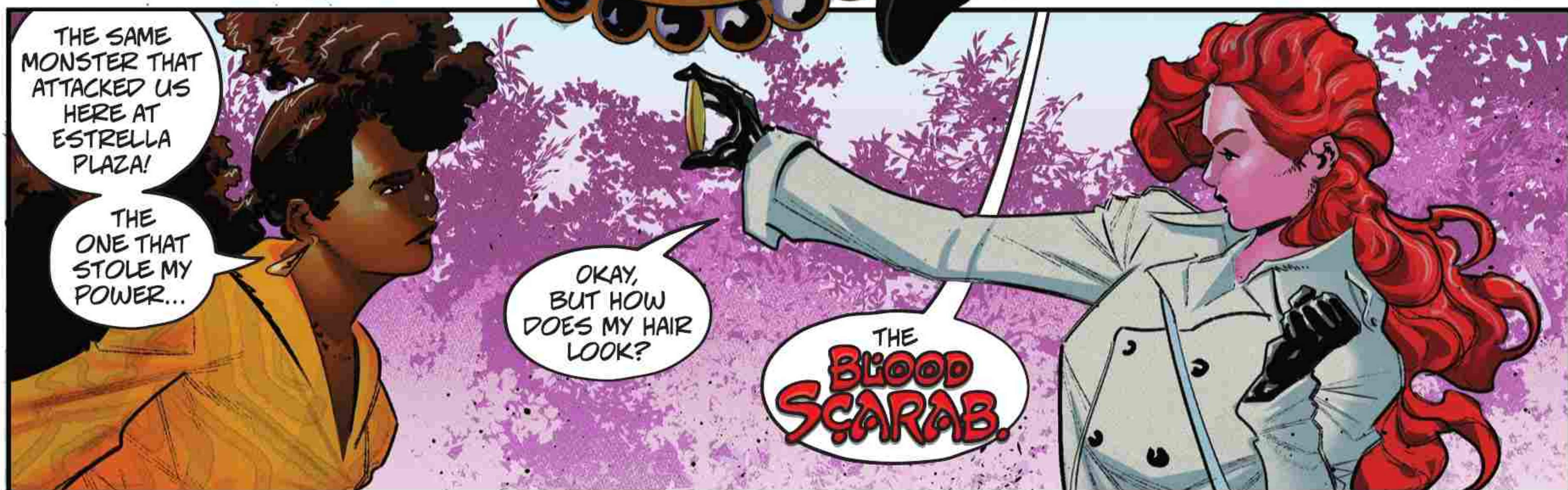
BELIEVE ME--COMING HERE WAS NOT MY IDEA!

"BELIEVE ME"? ARE YOU KIDDING?!



I SAW IT ALL WHEN I WAS TRYING TO FIX MY HAIR! A WARNING. A WHITE-HOT LIGHT OF UNBELIEVABLE POWER!

AND A RED DEMON THAT WILL FEED ON THAT POWER UNTIL IT DEVOURS THE WORLD ITSELF.



THE SAME MONSTER THAT ATTACKED US HERE AT ESTRELLA PLAZA!

THE ONE THAT STOLE MY POWER...

OKAY, BUT HOW DOES MY HAIR LOOK?

THE BLOOD SCARAB.



IF WHAT YOU SAID IS TRUE, IT'S EVEN WORSE THAN I THOUGHT.

GATHER NITIDA AND THE HORIZON! WE CANNOT WASTE ANY TIME.

OF COURSE, STARFIRE, BUT WHERE'S JAIME?

"YOU REALLY DO NOT WANT TO KNOW."

SCARAB WAR

CHAPTER FIVE

Josh Trujillo WRITER Adrián Gutiérrez ARTIST
Wil Quintana COLORIST Lucas Gattoni LETTERER
Gutiérrez & Luis Guerrero COVER
Ivan Reis and Brad Anderson VARIANT COVER
Tiago da Silva 1:25 VARIANT COVER
Andrew Marino EDITOR Katie Kubert GROUP EDITOR

SO YOU'RE LOOKING TO KILL A BEETLE, EH? WHERE SHALL WE BEGIN?

TRACI 13 THINKS SHE WAS ABLE TO STOP HIS INTANGIBILITY, BUT I STILL DON'T KNOW HOW TO HURT HIM.

AS YOU KNOW, I'VE MADE IT MY LIFE'S MISSION TO SEEK OUT AND STUDY ALIEN AND METAHUMAN TECHNOLOGY THAT MIGHT POSE A THREAT TO HUMANITY.

AND I CAN'T IMAGINE A BETTER OCCASION TO USE THAT TECHNOLOGY THAN AVENGING MY DEAR BROTHER, TEDDY.

MAYBE A GAMMA GONG?

NO. TOO LOUD.

GRAVITY ROD?

TOO HEAVY.

BLUE LANTERN RING?

TOO OPTIMISTIC.

WHAT'S THAT?

THAT'S AN ABSORBASCON. WEREN'T YOU IN THE JUSTICE LEAGUE?

ANYONE WHO TOUCHES IT WILL THINK THEY'RE THE REINCARNATION OF AN EGYPTIAN PHARAOH!

I'M PRETTY SURE THE BLOOD SCARAB IS AN EGYPTIAN PHARAOH.

WELL, THAT'S NOT GOING TO WORK, THEN, IS IT?

NONE OF THESE THINGS ARE EVEN HALF AS POWERFUL AS YOUR SCARAB. I NEED TO FIELD SOME MORE OPINIONS.

KHAJI DA, DEAR, I KNOW YOU'RE LISTENING.

WHAT DO YOU THINK WE SHOULD DO?

JAIME REYES, ARE YOU CERTAIN I SHOULD REVEAL SCARAB COMBAT VULNERABILITIES TO VICTORIA KORD?

I DON'T LIKE THIS EITHER, KHAJI.

DO IT.



CONCLUSION:
ISOLATING THE
BLOOD SCARAB FROM
ITS HOST WILL LEAVE
IT VULNERABLE TO
ATTACK.

KHAJI
SAYS WE NEED
TO SEPARATE THE
SCARAB FROM
THE HOST.



GOOD POINT.
THE SCARABS ARE
POWERFUL, BUT
THE HOSTS ARE
WEAK.

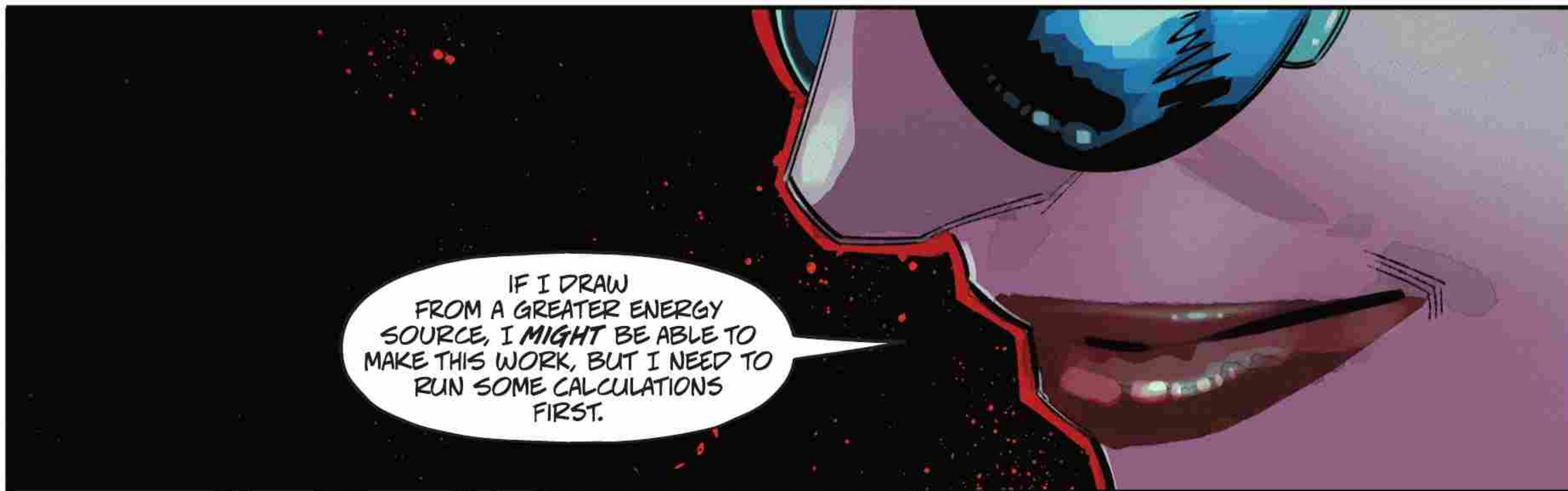
HEY!

THAT'S WHAT
CYBORG TRIED TO DO WHEN
HE HIT ME WITH HIS **NEURO-
NEUTRALIZER**.*

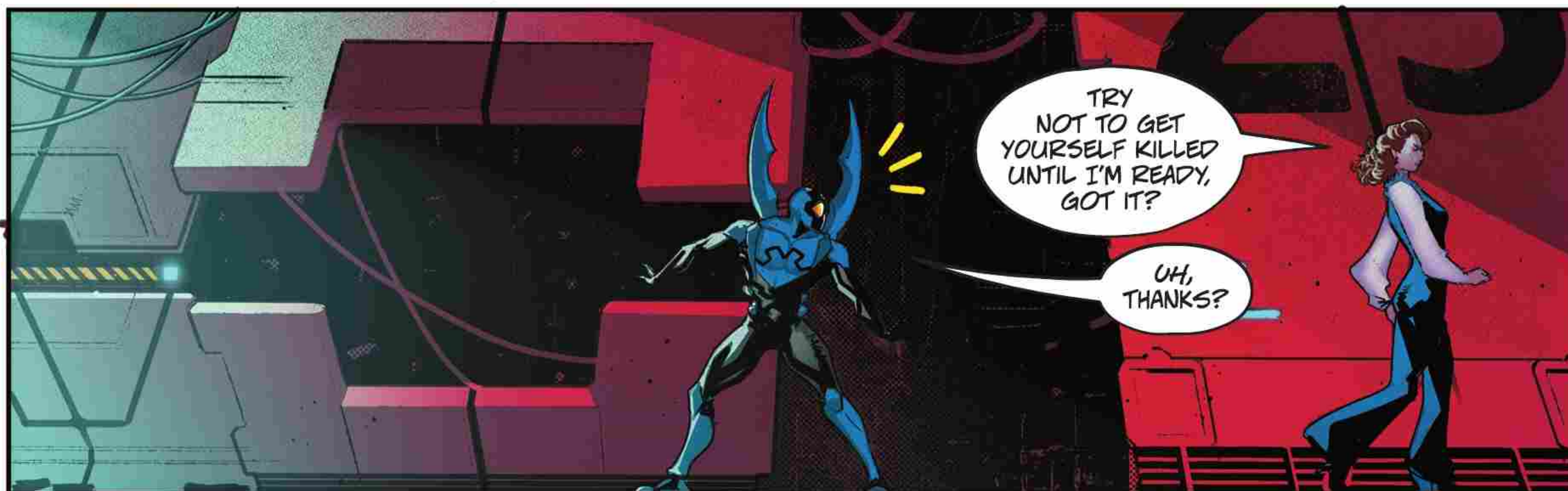
*WAY BACK IN
BLUE BEETLE:
GRADUATION DAY!
--ANDREW



HMM.
MAYBE THERE IS
SOMETHING TO VIC
STONE'S **FAILURE**
AFTER ALL.



IF I DRAW
FROM A GREATER ENERGY
SOURCE, I **MIGHT** BE ABLE TO
MAKE THIS WORK, BUT I NEED TO
RUN SOME CALCULATIONS
FIRST.



TRY
NOT TO GET
YOURSELF KILLED
UNTIL I'M READY,
GOT IT?

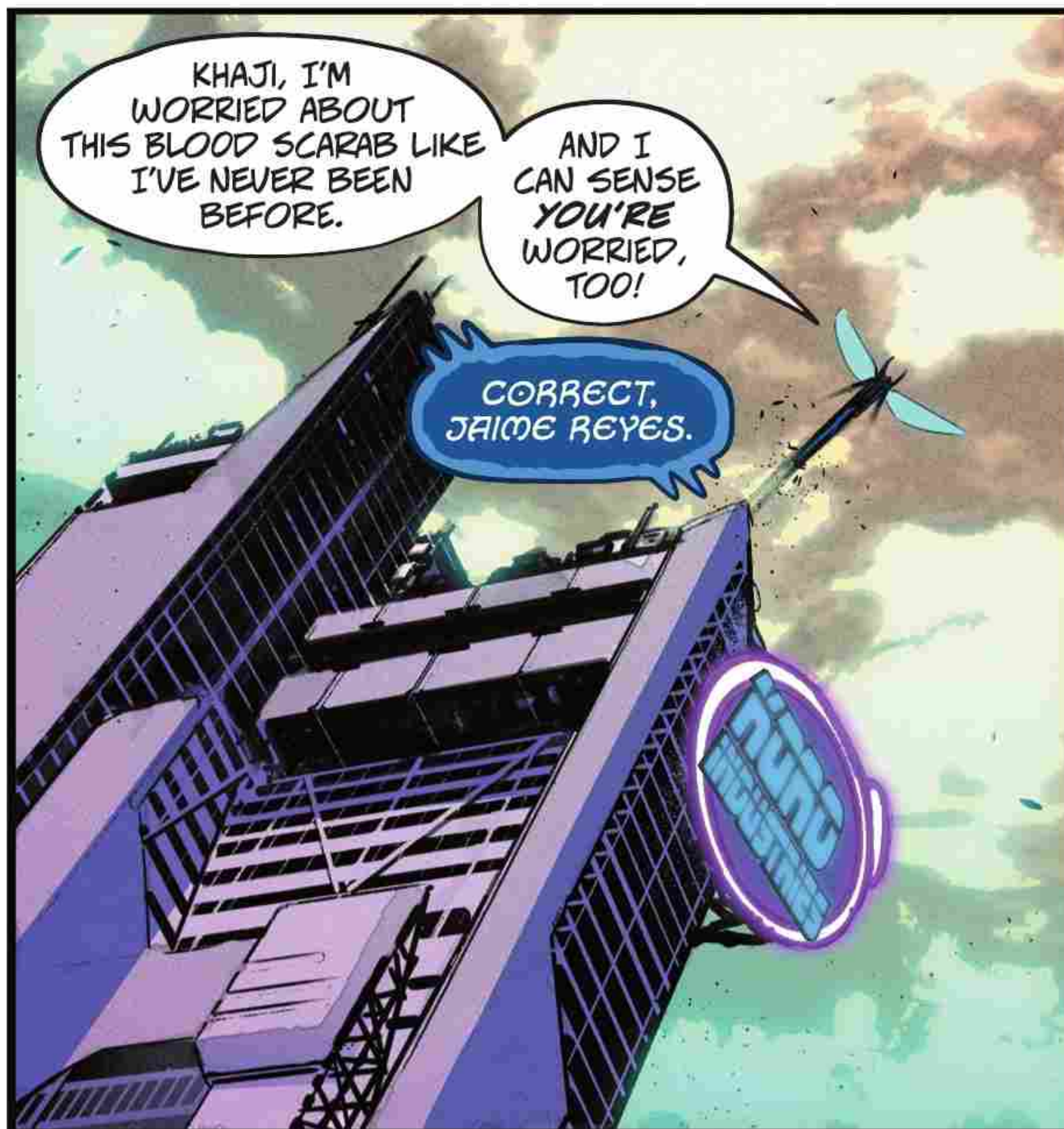
UH,
THANKS?



INCOMING
MESSAGE FROM
STARFIRE.

¡AY NO!
¿QUÉ ES?

SHE REQUESTS
YOUR PRESENCE
IMMEDIATELY!



KHAJI, I'M
WORRIED ABOUT
THIS BLOOD SCARAB LIKE
I'VE NEVER BEEN
BEFORE.

AND I
CAN SENSE
YOU'RE
WORRIED,
TOO!

CORRECT,
JAIME REYES.



THE RETURN
OF KHA-EF-RE DEFIES
LOGIC. KHA-EF-RE
IS DEAD.

YEAH, YOU
AND **DAN GARRETT**
STOPPED HIM A LONG
TIME AGO, DIDN'T
YOU?



CORRECT.
DAN GARRETT FREED
ME FROM KHA-EF-RE'S TOMB,
UNLEASHING THE PHAROAH
THAT HAD IMPRISONED ME
AND DAMAGED MY
SYSTEMS.

THE
SEVERITY
OF THIS DAMAGE
REQUIRED **DECADES**
TO REPAIR AND TO
REGAIN ACCESS
TO MY FULL
ABILITIES.



IT WAS THROUGH
DAN GARRETT THAT
I FIRST LEARNED OF
THE HUMAN TRAITS
OF HEROISM AND
SELFLESSNESS.

ON THAT DAY
WE FIRST BECAME
THE VIGILANTE KNOWN
AS THE **BLUE
BEETLE!**

HM. MAYBE
SOMETHING
ELSE HAPPENED
THAT DAY, BUT
WHAT?



QUERY
ACKNOWLEDGED,
BUT VARIABLES ARE
CURRENTLY
UNKNOWN.

TELL
STARFIRE
WE'RE ON
OUR WAY!

I JUST WISH
I KNEW EXACTLY WHAT
WENT DOWN WAY BACK
THEN. MAYBE IT WOULD GIVE
US SOME MORE CLUES
ABOUT THE BLOOD
SCARAB...

FROM AN INNER WELLSPRING OF STRENGTH, DAN GARRETT FOUND THE COURAGE TO DEFEY KHA-EF-RE! HIS HAND CLUTCHED THE BLUE BEETLE ... HE SAID THE ANCIENT WORDS!



THE HUGE MUMMY TOPPLED ... AND THEN WAS SUDDENLY SHRUNKEN TO HIS ORIGINAL SIZE ... AS LIFELESS AS THE ANCIENT CRYPTS OF EGYPT!



NO SOONER SAID THAN DONE ... FOR A MAN OF BLUE BEETLE'S UNBELIEVABLE ATTRIBUTES!



AFTER PUTTING A THICK SLAB INTO THE DOOR, THE BLUE BEETLE'S EYES FOCUSED HEAT ... GREAT ENOUGH TO FUSE THE DOOR INTO ONE SOLID MASS OF ROCK!





YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE SO RUDE TO JAIME.

I APPRECIATE YOUR LOYALTY TO YOUR FRIEND, BRENDA, I REALLY DO.

IN THIS CASE I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT, BUT IT **DOES** AMUSE ME.

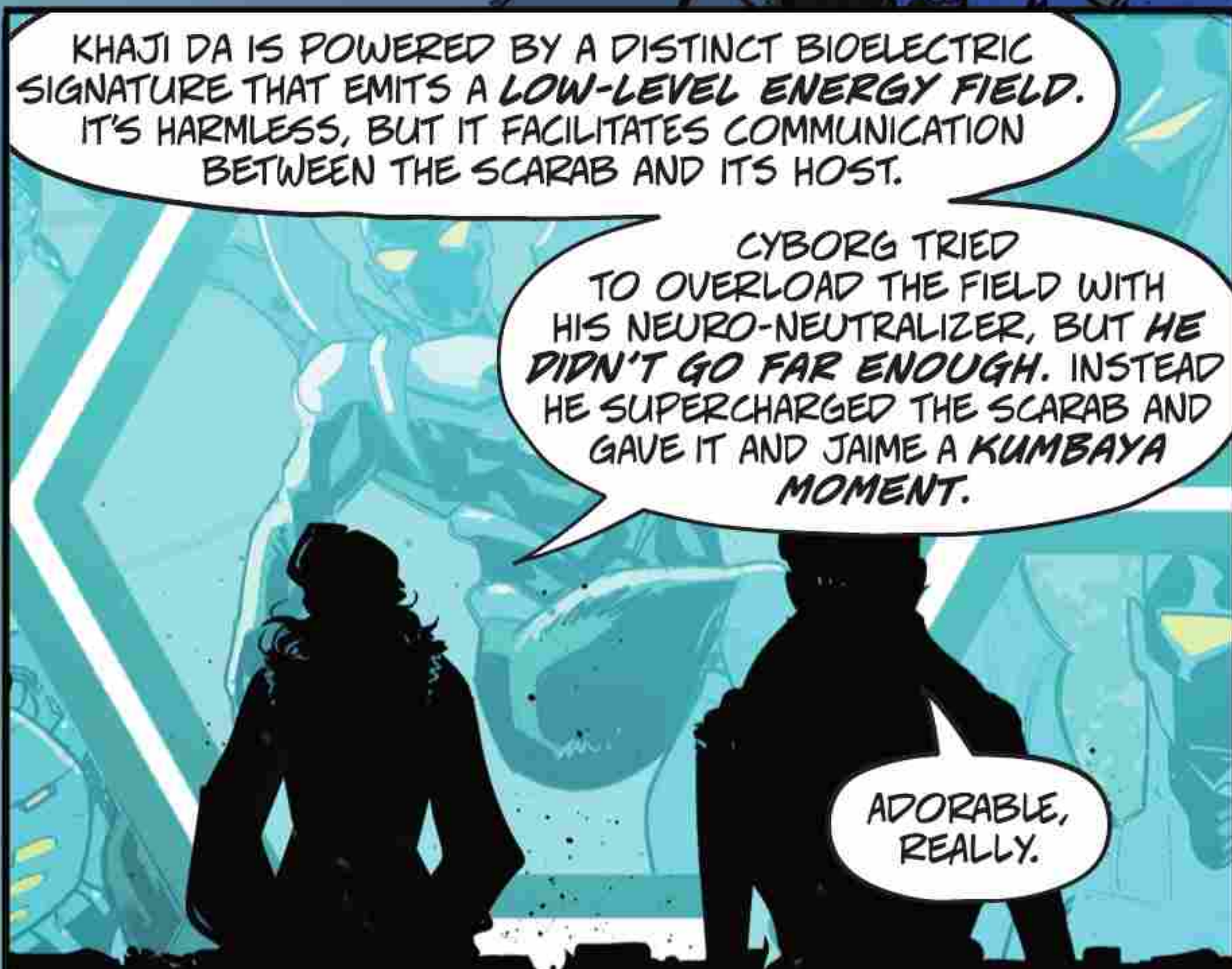


OF COURSE YOU WOULDN'T.

NOW, NOW, I'M GOING TO PRETEND I DIDN'T HEAR THAT.

HELP ME AT THE CONSOLE, BRENDA. I NEED TO NUKE THE BLOOD SCARAB WITH SPACE LASERS!

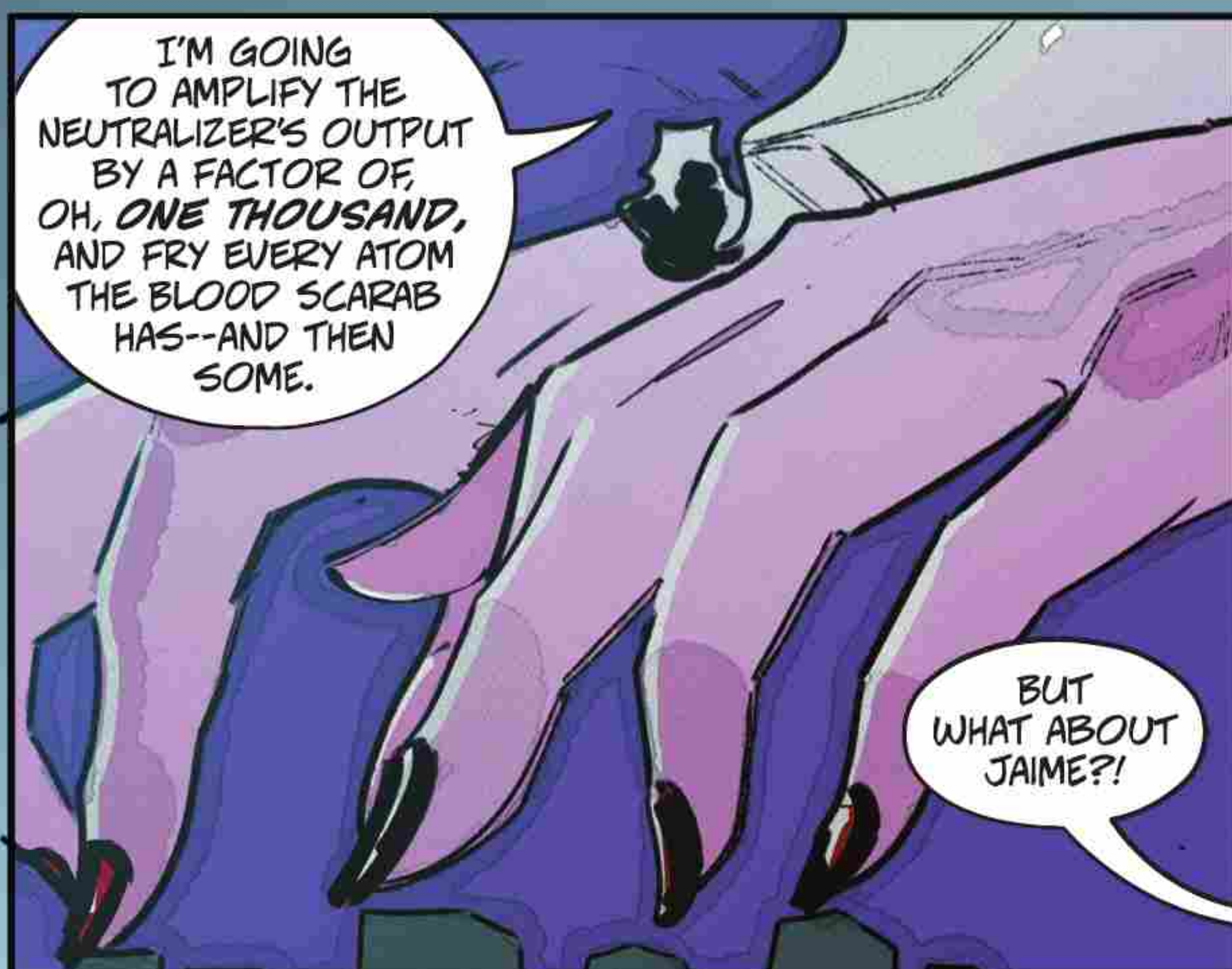
WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING, MS. KORD?



KHAJI DA IS POWERED BY A DISTINCT BIOELECTRIC SIGNATURE THAT EMITS A **LOW-LEVEL ENERGY FIELD**. IT'S HARMLESS, BUT IT FACILITATES COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE SCARAB AND ITS HOST.

CYBORG TRIED TO OVERLOAD THE FIELD WITH HIS NEURO-NEUTRALIZER, BUT HE **DIDN'T GO FAR ENOUGH**. INSTEAD HE SUPERCHARGED THE SCARAB AND GAVE IT AND JAIME A **KUMBAYA MOMENT**.

ADORABLE, REALLY.



I'M GOING TO AMPLIFY THE NEUTRALIZER'S OUTPUT BY A FACTOR OF OH, **ONE THOUSAND**, AND FRY EVERY ATOM THE BLOOD SCARAB HAS--AND THEN SOME.

BUT WHAT ABOUT JAIME?!



SO LONG AS BLUE BEETLE AND HIS **COVER BAND** STAY OUT OF THE WAY THEY'LL BE FINE, I THINK.

YOU THINK?!

THIS IS ALL THEORETICAL AT THIS POINT--**THAT'S HOW SCIENCE WORKS!**

YOU SHOULD BE MORE CONCERNED ABOUT BREAKING A NAIL WHEN YOU PRESS THE TRIGGER BUTTON.



YOU WANT ME TO PRESS THE TRIGGER.

I WANT YOU TO **SAVE THE DAY!** BE A TEAM PLAYER, BRENDA! REALLY.

SO C'MON, LET'S GET STARTED. BUT FIRST ORDER US SOME EMPANADAS FROM THAT DINER YOU LIKE.



STARFIRE!
WHAT'S GOING
ON?

AND IS
THAT FADEAWAY
I SEE BACK
THERE?

WE HAVE
TROUBLING
NEWS.



THE NAME IS
GIMMIX. IT'S NICE
TO MEET A PEER,
BLUE BEETLE.

UH,
SURE.

I'M HERE
BECAUSE
I PULLED A
PROPHECY
OUT OF MY
BAG OF TRIX.



I BELIEVE THE
BLOOD SCARAB IS
MAKING A BIG MOVE.
JUST LOOK AT
THE SKIES!

HE IS GOING
TO PERFORM A RITUAL
TO EMPOWER HIMSELF--
AND KILL EVERYONE
IN ITS WAKE.

OH
GOD.



DID YOU TALK
TO VICTORIA?

I DID. SHE'S
BUILDING A WEAPON
WE HOPE WILL MAKE THE
BLOOD SCARAB WEAK
ENOUGH TO...

...YEAH.

I'VE SEEN
THINGS YOU CAN'T
EVEN BEGIN TO IMAGINE,
KID. IT'S NOT ALL
CONVENTIONS AND
AUTOGRAPHS.

CONVENTIONS?



IF YOU
HAVE A SHOT
AT STOPPING THIS
BEAST, YOU NEED
TO TAKE IT.



I DO,
AND IT SOUNDS
LIKE WE HAVE TO
HURRY.

BUT
WHERE IS
HE?

Rogers Arena.

YOU
HAVE SERVED
ME WELL, JAVIER
BASUALDO. AFTER
ALL THIS TIME, I
WILL BE FULLY
RESTORED.

SOON
PEACE WILL
BE YOURS.

AND KHA-EF-RE
WILL LIVE ON FOR
ETERNITY.

וְהָיָה
כִּי יִשְׁמַח
יְהוָה בְּעַמּוֹ
וְיִשְׁמַח
בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל





THERE IS
NO TIME FOR
FAILURE.

FOR
TOO LONG I HAVE
WAITED FOR A CHANCE
TO STRIKE, TO REDEEM
MYSELF AND MY
GREAT LEGACY.

TO
RECLAIM
WHAT IS
MINE.



I WILL NOT
FALL AGAIN,
KHAJI DA.

I CANNOT.



HMM, LOOKS LIKE WE NEED TO FIGURE THIS OUT FAST. YOU MUST THINK **CAREFULLY**, JAIME.

REMEMBER, IT'S WHAT TED WOULD WANT.



IT'S JUST... **SO MUCH!** DON'T YOU EVER FEEL OVERWHELMED?

YES. BUT NIGHTWING IS USUALLY FLIRTING WITH ME IN THE MIDDLE OF IT, SO THAT HELPS.



OO'LI, WE NEED TO FIND THE BLOOD SCARAB. CAN YOU TAP INTO THE CITY'S SECURITY CAMERAS? I NEED AS MANY EYES ON PALMERA AS I CAN GET.

WHATEVER YOU NEED, JAIME.



PACO, HELP GET THE HORIZON AND THE PEOPLE OF PALMERA CITY TO THE SHELTERS. I DON'T WANT INNOCENTS GETTING HURT.

GOT IT!

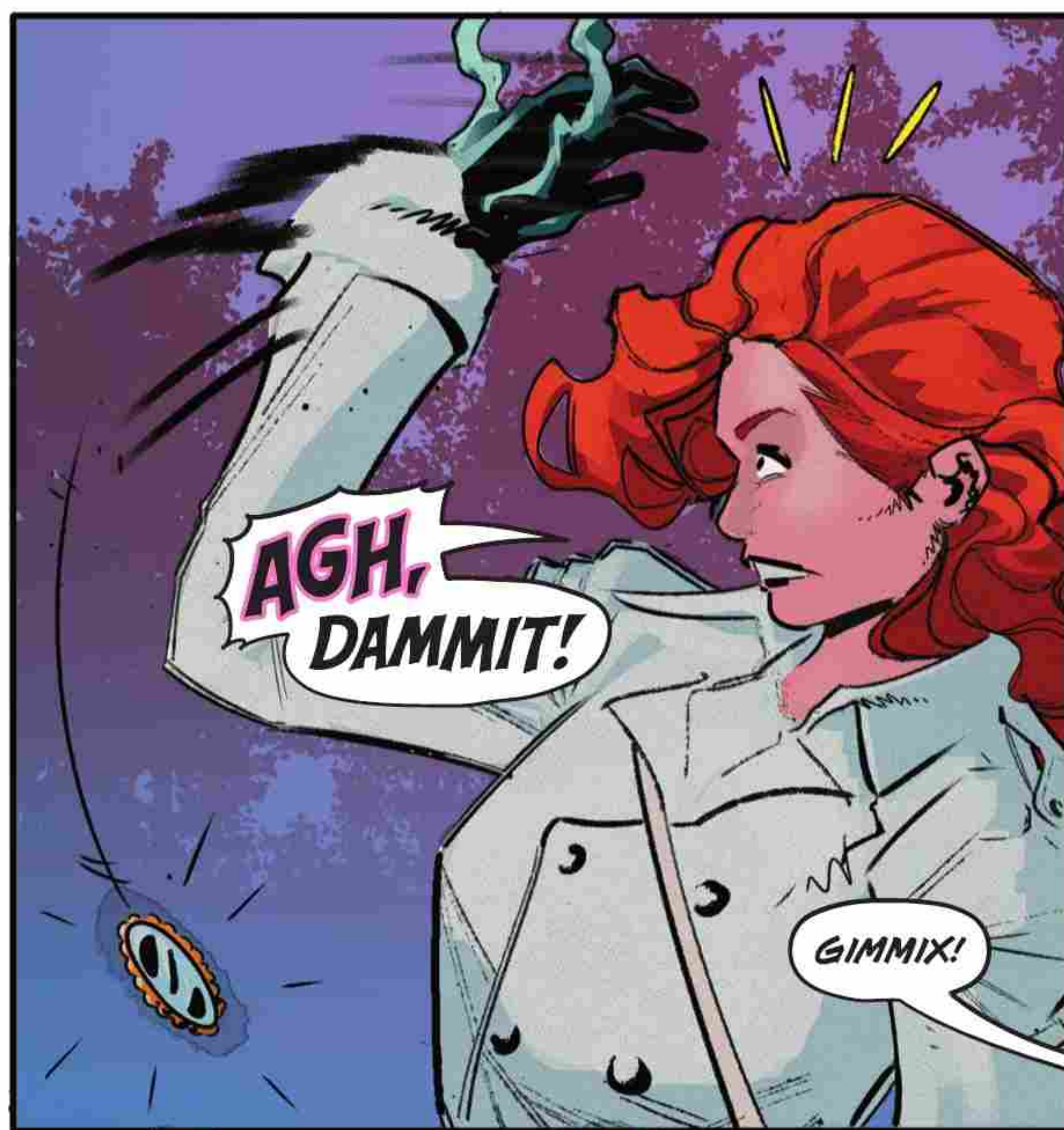


FADEAWAY...

UM.

DON'T STEAL ANYTHING.

NO PROMISES!



POLICE REPORT
THE BLOOD SCARAB
IS IN A COLISEUM, THE
KIND WHERE HUMANS
DRUNKENLY ABUSE
SPHERES.

ROGERS
ARENA! THAT'S
WHERE PALMERA
FEDERACIÓN
PLAYS!

HE'LL BE
EXPECTING US.
WE NEED YOU
TO MAKE A
PLAN.

ME?
BUT YOU'RE
A TITAN!

YES, BUT
YOU'RE OUR
LEADER.

THINK,
JAIME,
THINK...

OKAY,
OKAY.

I THINK
I KNOW WHAT
WE HAVE TO
DO.

BUT
FIRST, WE
GO TO THE BLOOD
SCARAB AND THEN
**WE FIGHT
LIKE HELL!**



THERE HE IS!



BE READY FOR ANYTHING.



OH WOW, YOU WEREN'T KIDDING!

WHAT ARE THESE THINGS?!



I CAN HANDLE THEM. YOU GO AHEAD.

BUT YOU'RE OUT-NUMBERED!

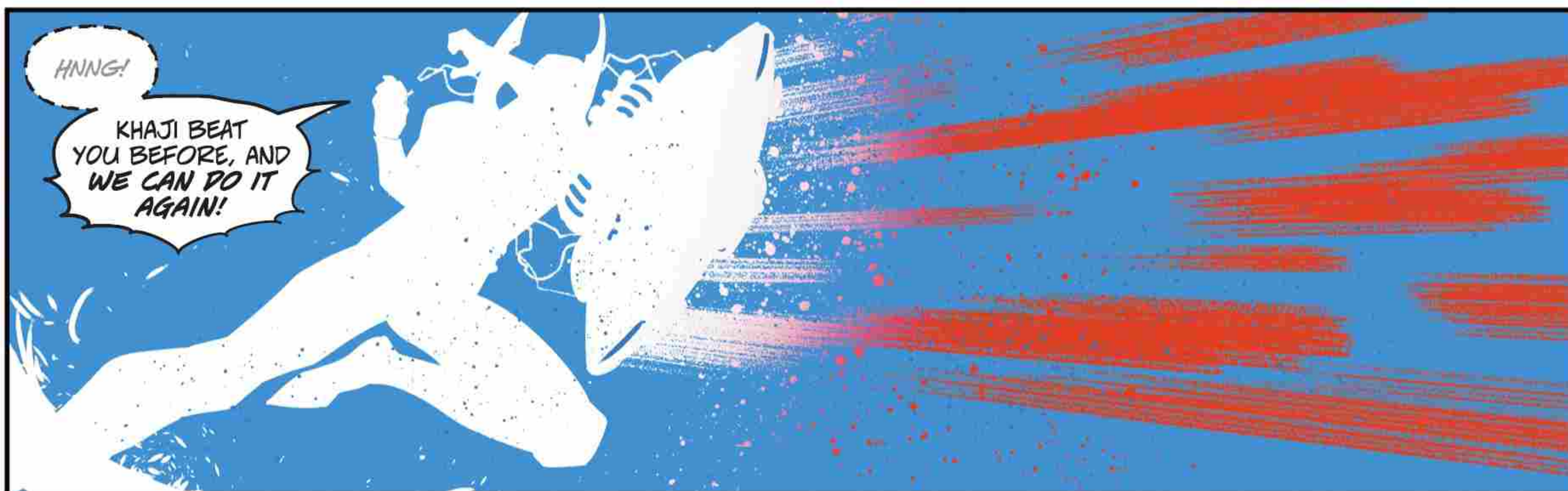


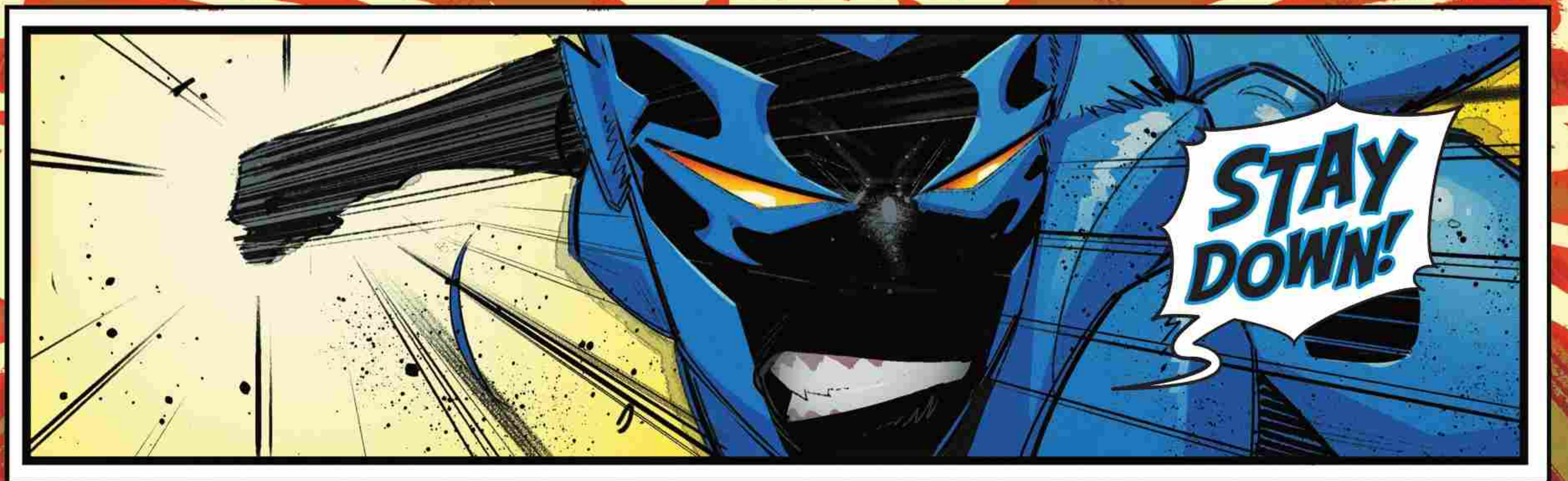
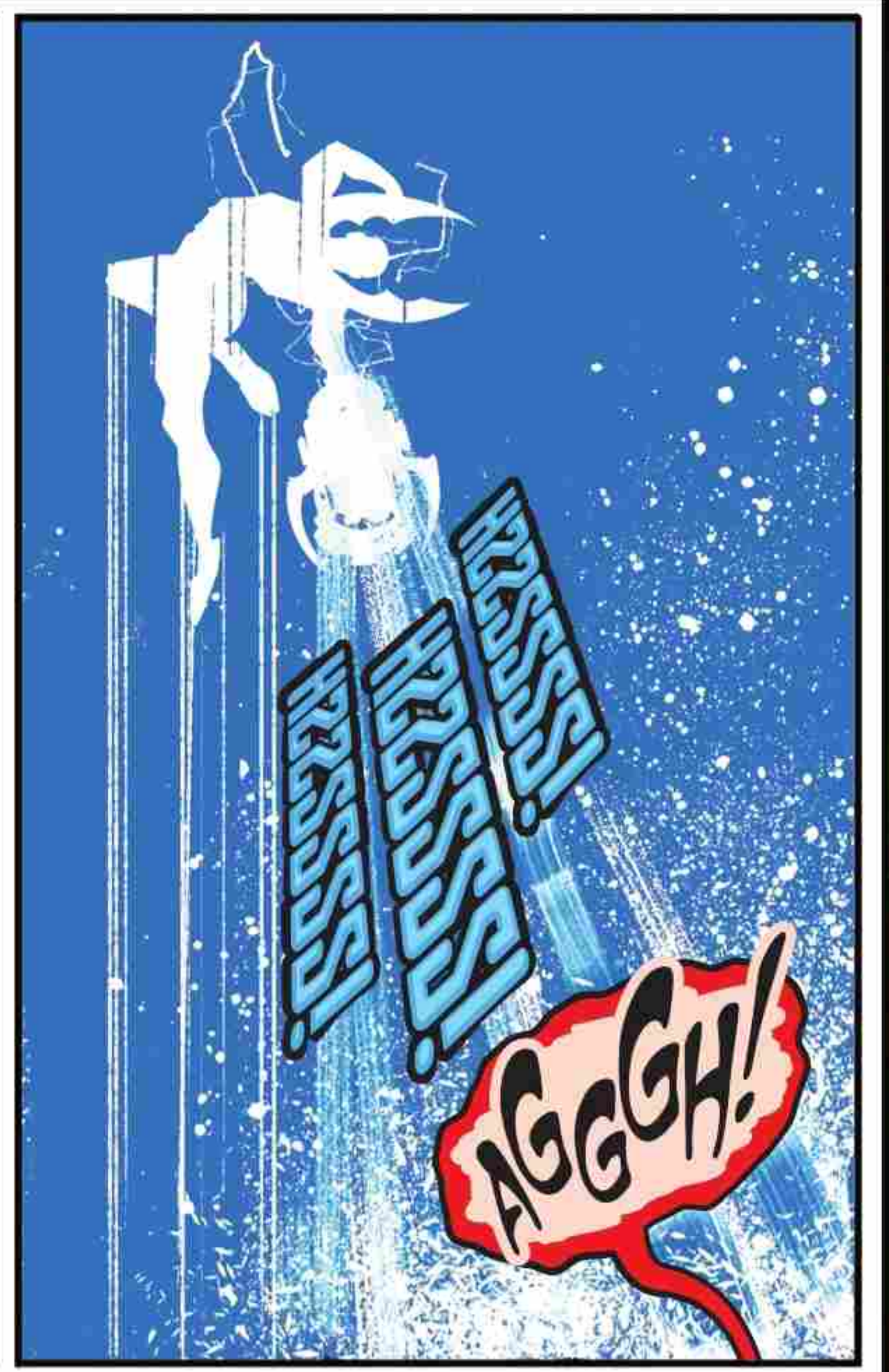
THAT'S WHAT MAKES IT FUN.

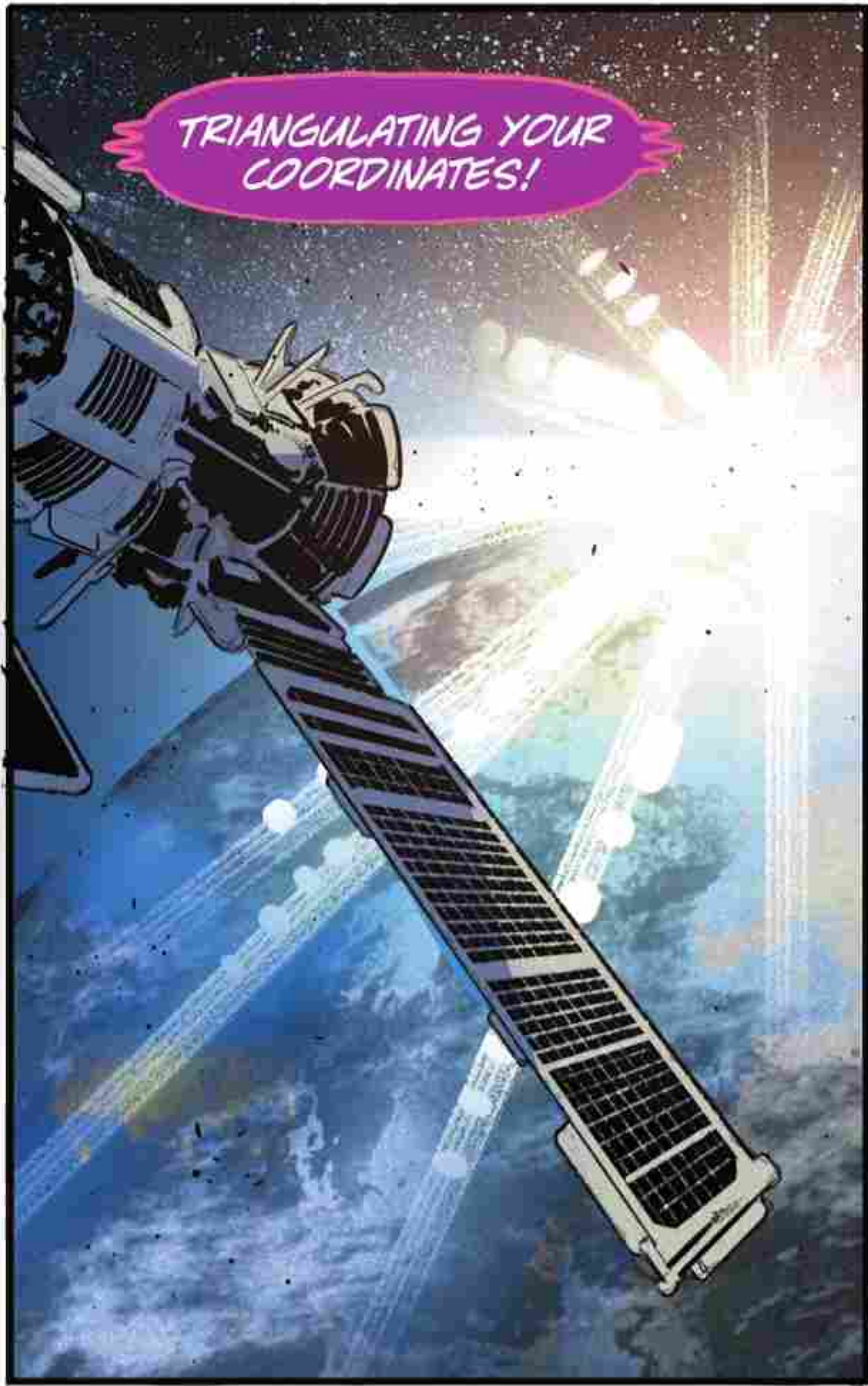


HERE GOES NOTHING--!

INCOMING!











...WEAKENED?



BEEBLE,
GO!

I'LL BUY
YOU AND THE
OTHERS SOME
TIME.

NO,
DYNASTES!



THIS
ENDS
NOW.

"ONLY
YOU ALONE
CAN STOP
HIM."



IT'S MY
DESTINY.

NEXT:

**PROPHECIES
FULFILLED!**



IT'S QUIET ABOVE THE CLOUDS. ALL SUPERMAN HEARS IS BIZARRO'S BREATHING.



HE SOUNDS DIFFERENT. LESS MANIC. MORE FOCUSED.

SUPERMAN CAN'T HELP BUT FIND THIS SOMEWHAT UNSETTLING.

BIZARRO?



YOU REMEMBER ME, RIGHT? I'M SUPERMAN. WE'VE BEEN ALLIES IN THE PAST.

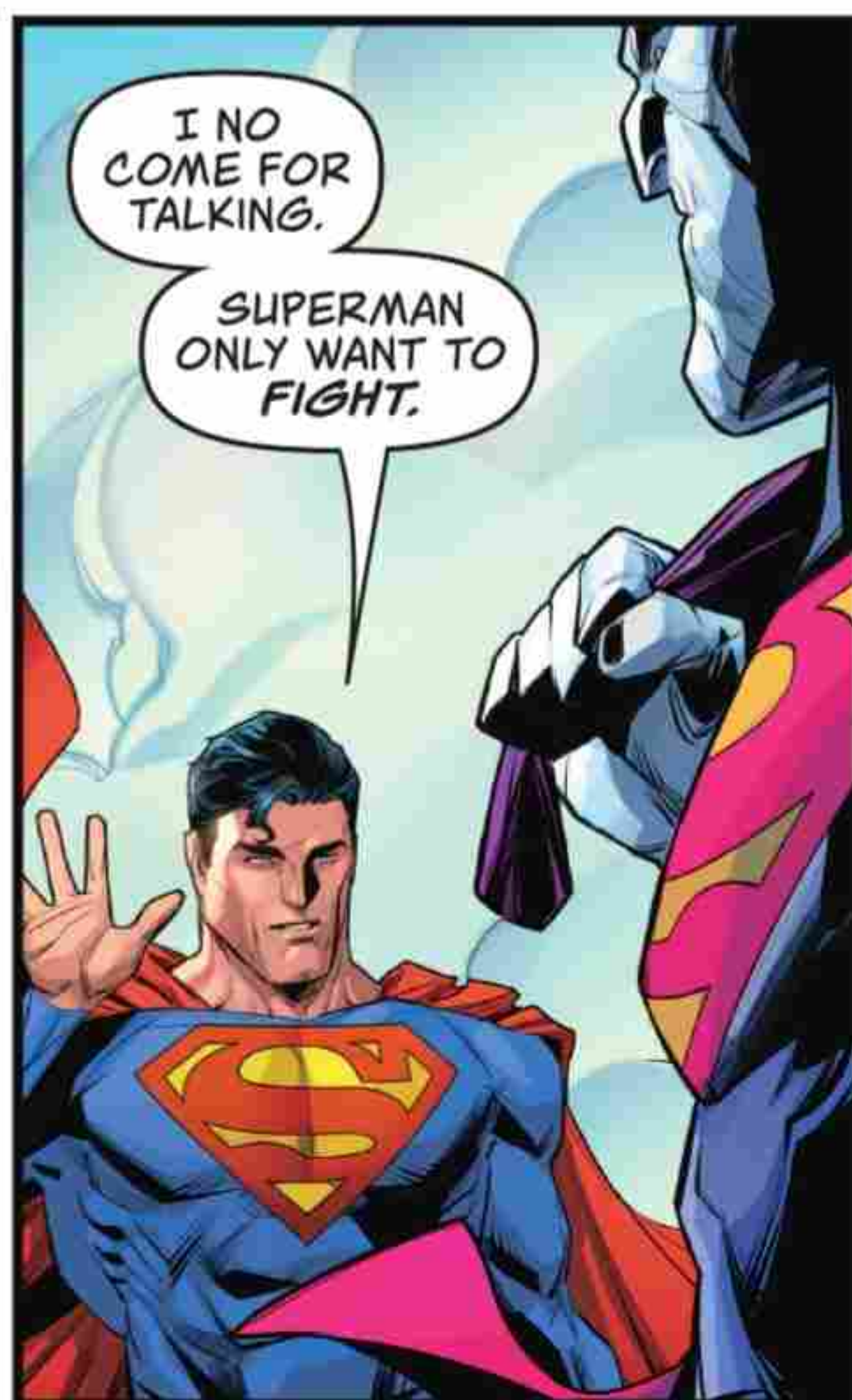
HAS SOMETHING HAPPENED ON BIZARRO WORLD? OR WITH YOUR SON, BOYZARRO? LAST THING JON AND I HEARD, HE'D RETURNED HOME.

WHATEVER IT IS, I'D LIKE TO HELP. WHAT I MEAN IS...



I NO COME FOR TALKING.

SUPERMAN ONLY WANT TO FIGHT.



WHAT NO SAY YOU, BIZARRO?

HMPH.

YOU THINK I SMARTEST MAN ALIVE.

YOU KNOW, SUPERMAN. YOU KNOW SO MUCH.

BIZARRO, PLEASE, LET'S NOT--



JASON AARON WRITER
JOHN TIMMS ARTIST
REX LOKUS COLORIST
DAVE SHARPE LETTERER

SUPERMAN CREATED BY JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER.
BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE JERRY SIEGEL FAMILY.



PREVIEW

SUPERMAN
ACTION
COMICS

PREVIEW



MOMENTS
LATER...

BOOM

UUGH.
IS THIS...

THIS IS
VENUS.

BIZARRO
JUST SWATTED
ME...25 MILLION
MILES.

THAT LEVEL
OF POWER IS
BEYOND ANYTHING
HE'S SHOWN
BEFORE.

HOW
HAS HE--

I NOT KNOW
WHAT YOU
THINKING. AND
YOU WRONG.

UUGH!

I SAME
BIZARRO!

SAMEST
BIZARRO
EVER!

SUPERMAN

ACTION
COMICS

PREVIEW

PREVIEW



CORONA OF THE SUN.

MOONS OF JUPITER.

SATURN'S RINGS.

PLUTO.

THROWN

THREE BILLION MILES FROM EARTH.

PREVIEW

SUPERMAN
ACTION
COMICS

PREVIEW



PREVIEW

SUPERMAN
ACTION
COMICS

PREVIEW



WOLFSBANE PETALS
FROM THE ANTIMATTER
GARDENS OF QWARD.

AN ELIXIR OF HUNGER DOG
TEARS FROM THE FIRE-PITTED
ARMAGETTO OF APOKOLIPS.

THE STILL-TWITCHING
TONGUE OF A FIFTH-
DIMENSIONAL IMP.

A MYRIAD OF ARCAINE
INGREDIENTS HAVE
BEEN GATHERED FROM
THE FAR CORNERS OF
THE COSMOS.

SOMEHOW, BIZARRO
SIMPLY KNOWS
WHAT IS NEEDED.

SINCE THE SORCERERS'
WORLD, HE CAN SEE IN A WAY
NO BIZARRO EVER HAS.

THE THREADS OF ALL EXISTENCE
LIE UNSPOOLED BEFORE HIM.

HE CAN
SEE IT ALL.

EXCEPT A
WAY HOME.

SUPERMAN
ACTION
COMICS

THE

SANDMAN ♦ UNIVERSE

HE'S GOT ONE LAST TRICK UP
HIS SLEEVE BEFORE EVERYTHING
GOES TO HELL.

JOHN CONSTANTINE

HELLBLAZER

DEAD IN
AMERICA

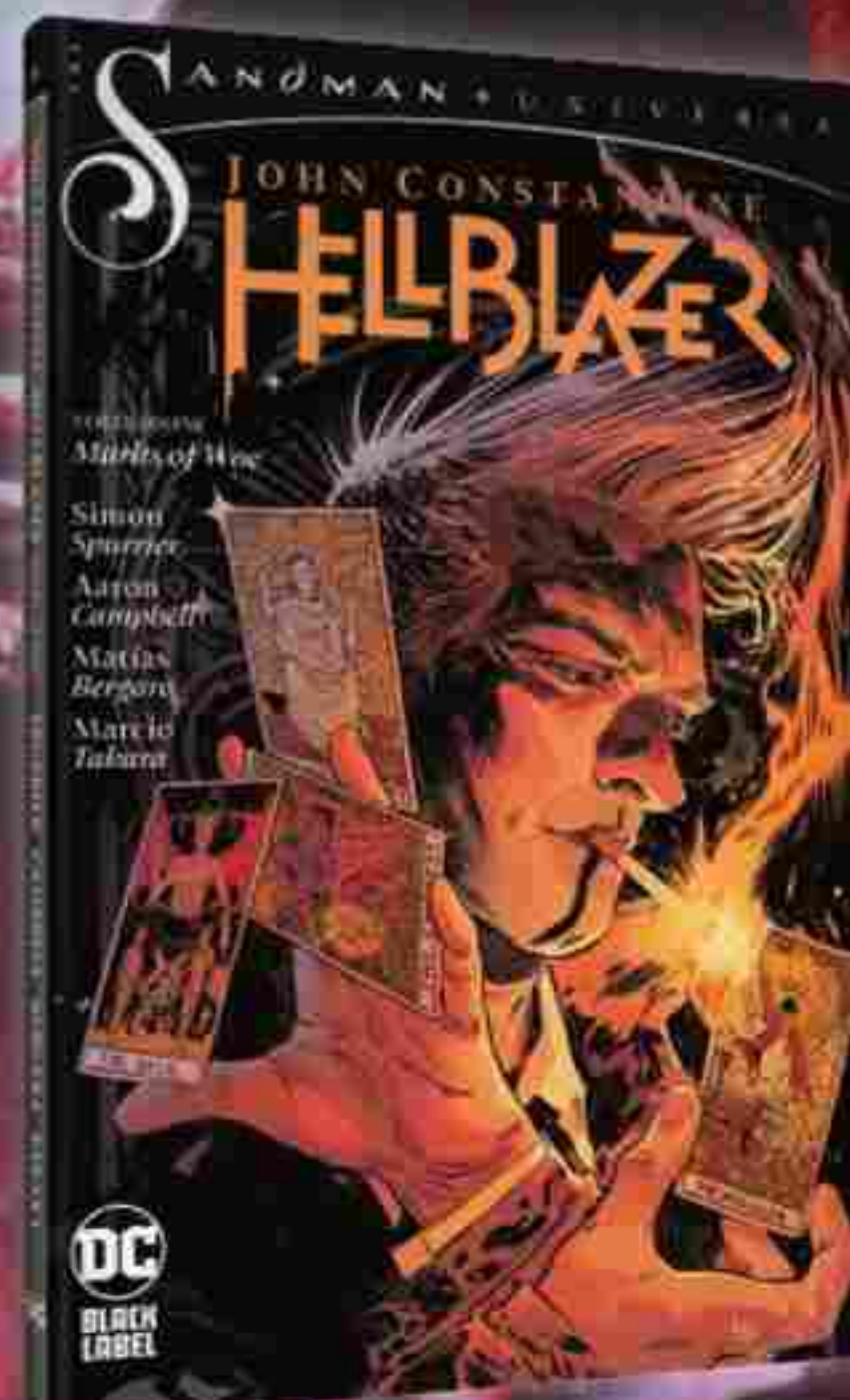
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Writer
SI SPURRIER
and artist
AARON CAMPBELL
return with a
new 9-issue series

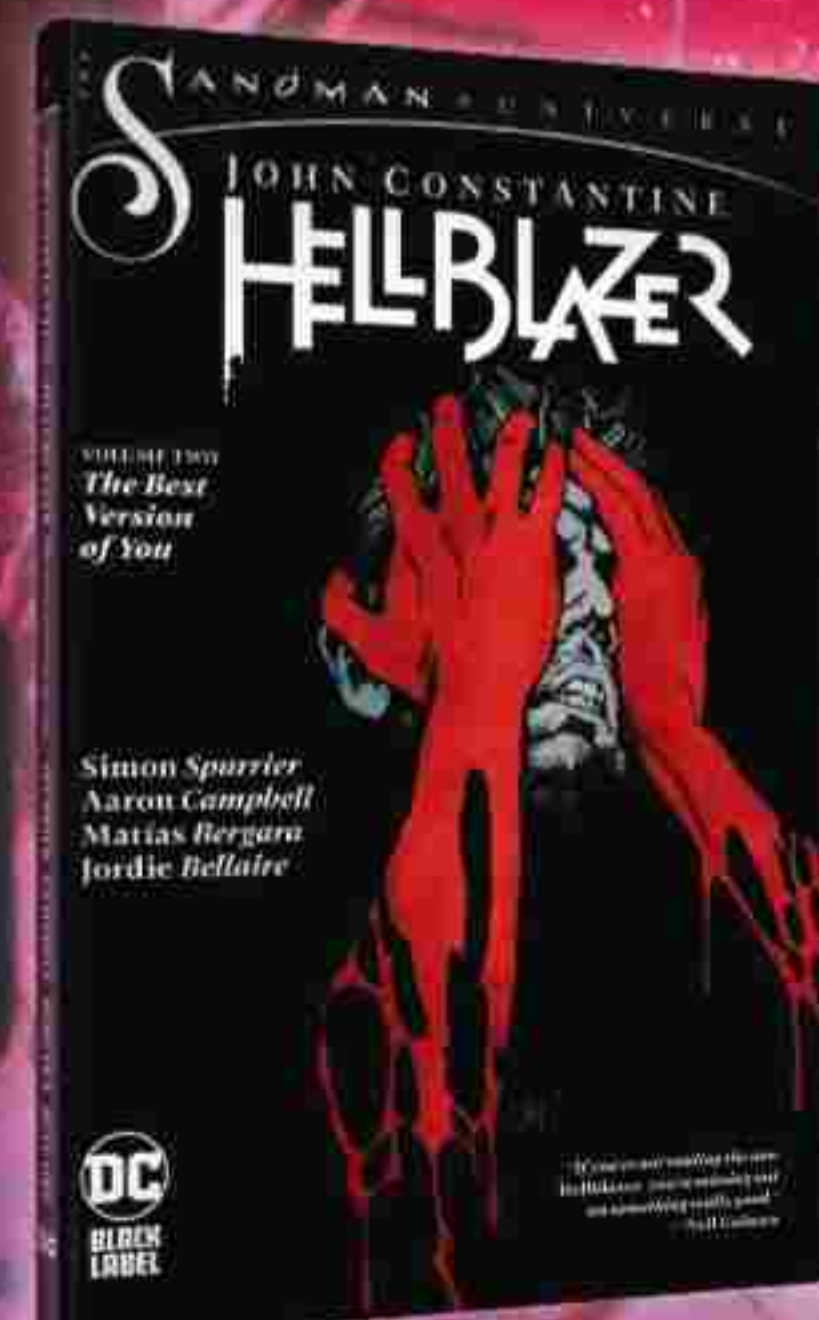
JANUARY



ALSO AVAILABLE:



John Constantine,
Hellblazer Vol. 1:
Marks of Woe



John Constantine,
Hellblazer Vol. 2: The
Best Version of You

SUPERMAN
ACTION
COMICS
#1061



**INTERVIEW WITH WRITER
JASON AARON**

Eisner Award-winning writer Jason Aaron and fan-favorite artist John Timms usher in an unpredictable new era for the Man of Steel in *Action Comics* #1061, which kicks off the yearlong Superman Superstars initiative. DC Nation talked with Aaron to get the lowdown on what fans can expect.

What's it like not only to write Superman—but to write him in *Action Comics*, the series that started it all?

It's a huge honor. No other way to describe it. What a phenomenal way to start my first real stint as a writer for DC Comics. First a Batman book, in the form of *Batman: Off-World*, and now a story for *Action Comics*, the series that truly paved the way for so much of what has shaped my life as a comic book fan and creator.

Is Superman a character you've always wanted to write?

For a long time, yeah. I've felt for a while now like you're not really a proper comic book writer until you've gotten to write Superman. Also, there's the fact that my entire 20-year comics-writing career has coincided with me moving to Kansas, so it feels like I need to pay the Man of Steel back for what he's so graciously given me.

How have you enjoyed collaborating with artist John Timms?

John was born to draw Superman and his world. He gives all of it such majesty and splendor, while also nailing all the creepier, weirder elements that are such a big part of this story. And he really goes all out with the first big fight scene we see between Superman and Bizarro, taking things to a truly epic scale.

How did you land on Bizarro as the villain for your story? What makes him different in this story from what readers have seen from him before?

I love the all-out weirdness of Bizarro, but I also saw the chance to bring a darker, more sorrowful edge to the character. This is a broken, damaged version of poor Bizarro, who stumbles upon a revelation about himself that allows him to strike in a wild new way against a world that has hated and mocked him for far too long.

**DON'T MISS
ACTION COMICS #1061,
ON SALE IN JANUARY!**

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